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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,081	02/14/2001	Todd C. Snelgrove	024944-134	9824

7590 09/28/2005
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EXAMINER

FISHER, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/782,081

Applicant(s)

SNELGROVE, TODD C.

Examiner

Michael J. Fisher

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to. Specifically, claim 12, as written, should be in independent form as it is a different invention in that it is a product that performs the process as claimed in claim 7 and as such, should be re-written in properly independent form. As claim 12 is considered to be independent, further examination will require applicant to pay fees for a fourth independent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PAT 6,173,210 to Bjornson et al. (Bjornson).

As to claims 1 and 7, Bjornson discloses a memory unit storing product specific data (claim 1, col 46, line 65), inputting means for plant specific data (claim 1, col 46, line 64, equipment profiles would be plant specific data as the equipment is in the plant), a processor for receiving the data (inherent in that it is entered into a database), the processor could be used to calculate this as it does calculations (claim 1, col 47, lines 7-18). Bjornson further discloses presenting the costs (569, as best seen in fig 24A)

Bjornson further teaches economic data associated with the seals (abstract, lines 30-33) Bjornson does not, however, teach using economic based data. It is very well known in the art to maximize profits by minimizing repair and replacement costs.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system as taught by Bjornson to minimize repair and replacement costs to maximize profits. It would further be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to calculate savings as this would be necessary to know if there were any savings by using one seal over another.

As to claims 2 and 8, it would be inherent that the savings would be calculated using these parameters as they would show how often repairs are necessary.

As to claims 3 and 9, inherently, downtime of machines affects production and operating costs.

As to claims 4 and 10, these factors would affect energy use and therefore, would inherently be used to calculate the savings related to that.

As to claims 5 and 11, these factors would inherently be used to calculate total savings.

As to claim 6, Bjornson does not, however, disclose a network. It is very well known in the art to connect a computer to a network. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a network so the sales force could access the data from the engineering force.

As to claim 12, as the process is done on a computer, it would inherently be computer loadable.

As to claim 13, there is product specific data (claim 1).

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As to claim 14, Bjornson does not teach a plurality of interfaces. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a different database to calculate savings as this is distinct from choosing a seal.

As to claim 15, Bjornson discloses a link for each of a plurality of fields involving seals and bearings (fig 2C contains various databases related to seals and bearings).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/11/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As to claim 12, it is considered to be an independent claim in that it recites an apparatus for performing the method of claim 7 and not a claim with an added method limitation. As to arguments in relation to the rejection under 35 USC 103, as discussed, the prior art includes the structure as claimed but does not specifically teach the invention as being used to compare costs to reduce costs. As discussed in the rejection, lowering costs is very well known in the art as lowered costs mean improved profits. As applicant has acknowledged, the prior art does reference the cost price and cost of seals and further acknowledges that the prior art discloses the cost of seals as being important. As the prior art further discloses ascertaining the information as claimed, the rejection under 35 USC 103 is considered proper.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


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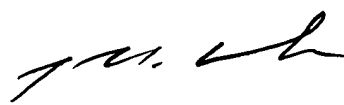
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Fisher whose telephone number is 571-272-6804. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm alt Fri. off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF 
9/22/05


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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